



Summer 2020

## Newsletter 2019-2020

Hispanic Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

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*Hispanic Studies  
Newsletter  
2019-2020*

**W**  
**ILLINOIS  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY**





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# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

## ¡Felicidades clase de 2020!



**Sam Berghoff '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
International Studies  
(Diplomatic Studies)



**Kyle Fahsl '20**  
Hispanic Studies  
& Japanese  
Studies Minor



**Vi Kakares '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
English  
*Sigma Delta Pi,  
President*



**Yesenia Martínez-  
Calderón '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
Educational Studies  
*Sigma Delta Pi, Vice-  
President*



**Nick Milcik '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
Physics



**Esther Niedert '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
International Business



**Haley Rojek '20**  
Hispanic Studies &  
Accounting



Prof. Jessie Dixon-Montgomery



Prof. Carmela Ferradans



Suzie Smeeton  
Administrative Assistant



Prof. Carolyn Nadeau  
Byron S. Tucci Professor of  
Spanish and Chair of WLLC



Prof. Cesar Valverde



Hispanic Studies Program | Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures (WLLC)  
Illinois Wesleyan University

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Hispanic Studies majors and minors! We are so proud of your accomplishments and achievements.

### SAM BERGHOFF

Sam Berghoff plans to get her TEFL certification and teach English abroad.

### YESENIA MARTÍNEZ CALDERÓN

This fall, Yesenia Martínez Calderón will be teaching in the Chicago Public School system.

### KYLE FAHSL

Kyle Fahsl intends to pursue a career in the foreign service.

### VI KAKARES

Vi Kakares will begin her professional career at Access2Insight, a digital marketing firm based in Chicago.

### NICK MILCIK

Nick Milcik is exploring research avenues in physics.

## ESTHER NIEDERT

Esther Niedert will also begin her professional career at Access2Insight, a digital marketing firm based in Chicago.

## HALEY ROJEK

Haley Rojek is going into public accounting at RSM in Chicago.

## JOSH SEGATTO

Josh Segatto will be entering law school this fall at University of Missouri.

## TAMARA SNEVELY

Tamara Snevely will begin active duty in the US Navy as a Navy Corps Nurse. She will be stationed in San Diego and hopes to use her Spanish skills to minimize language barriers in healthcare.

## MARÍA & SABRINA

María Martín Rey (center) and Sabrina Fagué (right), IES exchange students, departed for their respective home countries of Spain and France in mid May. After several cancelled flights both were able to safely return home. Both María and Sabrina were outstanding tutors in the Language Resource Center this year as well as excellent students in several Hispanic Studies classes. We will miss them both!

## HISPANIC STUDIES MINORS

Brynn Beveridge  
Jane Crabtree  
Patrick Hickey  
Melissa Holzer  
Mia Massaro

Vanessa Roa  
Joshua Segatto  
Madilyn Smith  
Tamara Snevely  
Dean Zigulich

# ¡Felicidades a todos!







# FACULTY NEWS

## APPRECIATION

Professor Scott Sheridan presents a gift of appreciation to our favorite administrative assistant, Suzie Smeeton, at our annual holiday party.

## NEW ADJUNCTS

This fall, we welcomed two new fantastic adjuncts to Hispanic Studies, Cristina Almeida (left) and Jackie Frisvold ('11, right) with her son Nolan.





# CARMELA FERRADÁNS

Prof. Carmela Ferradáns was awarded an ASD grant (Artistic/Scholarship Development grant) to do onsite research on the intersectionality of migration, gender, and cultural identity around the Mediterranean. Profe is working on a dual-language Spanish/English annotated edition of the short story collection *Por la vía de Tarifa / By Way of Tarifa* by writer and human rights activist Nieves García Benito. During her sabbatical leave in spring 2020, she traveled to Tarifa, the southernmost point in Europe a mere 9 miles away from the African coast, to meet the author and get immersed in this rich, diverse, and tragic piece of land.



# CAROLYN NADEAU

## Publications

"Food Fit for a King: Exploring Royal Recipes in Francisco Martínez Montañó's 1611 Cookbook," *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* vol. XCVII, no. 7, 2020. DOI: 10.1080/14753820.2020.1699333

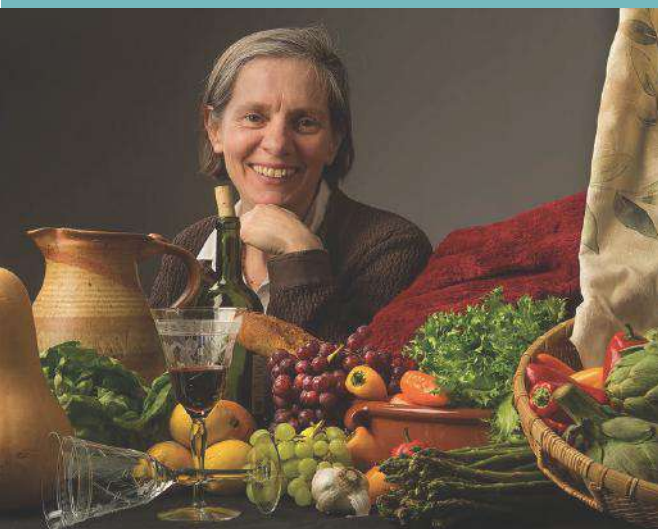
"Furniture and Equipment in the Royal Kitchens of Early Modern Spain," *Food, Texts and Cultures in Latin America and Spain*. Ed Rafael Climent Espino and Ana María Gómez Bravo. Vanderbilt University Press, 2020. pp.115-49.

"Unpacking Food Images in Cervantes' 'El celoso extremeño.'" *Sex and Gender in Cervantes. Sexo y género en Cervantes. Essays in Honor of Adrienne Laskier Martín*. Ed. Esther Fernández and Mercedes Alcalá Galán. Kassel, Germany: Reichenberger, 2019, pp. 153-166.

Review. Don Quixote. *The Re-accentuation of the World's Greatest Literary Hero*. By Slav N. Gratchev and Howard Mancing. Bucknell University Press, 2017. *Comparative Literature Studies* vol. 56, no. 4, 2019. Pp. 880-886. DOI:10.5325/complitstudies.56.4.0880.

## Key note address

"Lecciones de Sancho Panza sobre el privilegio nutritivo, la estabilidad alimentaria y el movimiento Slow Food," Il Congreso Internacional Sistémico: Gobernanza mundial y gobierno de Sancho Panza, Villanueva de los Infantes, Spain, 2019.





## JESSIE DIXON-MONTGOMERY

Prof. Dixon-Montgomery delivered the keynote address at this year's Martin Luther King Teach-In on January 20th, 2020. The title of her presentation was "Fulfilling the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: The Intentionality of Education and Diversity."

Her paper, "Forging A Path: Dominican Identity, Blackness and the Conscious Hip Hop of MCD La Etiketa Negra," will be presented at the XXVI Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos, a virtual conference to be held on June 17-19th 2020.





# STUDENT ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

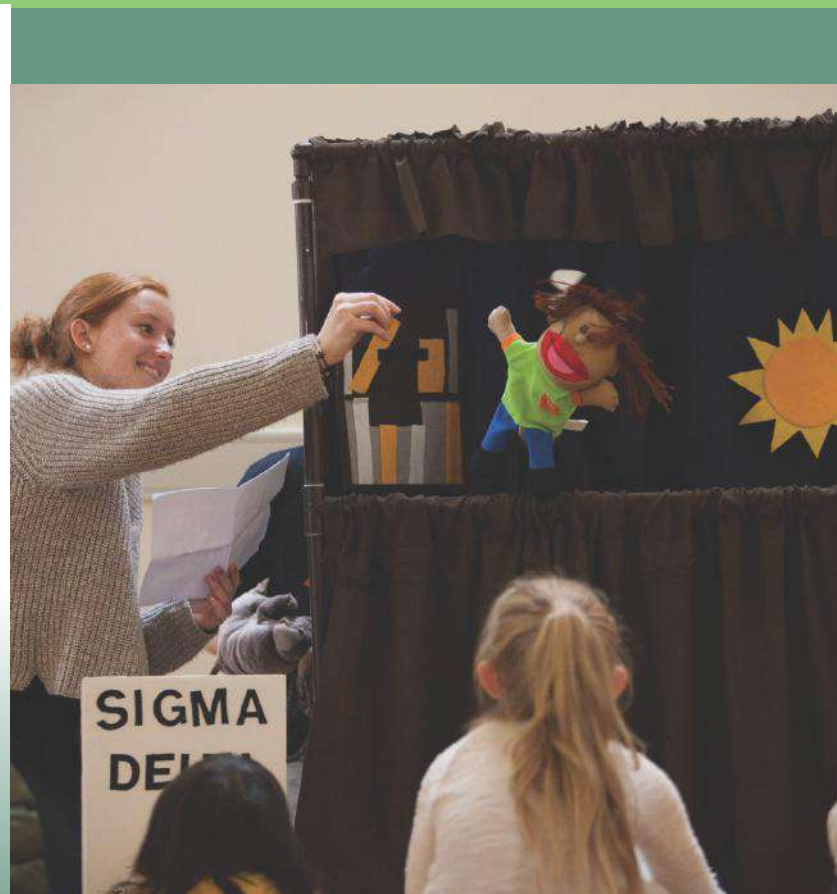


## EL BAILE DE LA INDEPENDENCIA

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, SALSA hosted “El baile de la independencia.” Community members shared poems, songs, and spoke on the importance of being connected to the community. Everyone enjoyed dancing bachata, cumbia, merengue and other Latino dances.

## GRANT AWARDED TO LSK

We are very excited to report that the Language School for Kids (LSK) has been awarded a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF) this spring. The grant will support adding new languages to the curriculum including Korean, Mandarin, and perhaps Sign Language. LSK programming has served McLean County families for five years through early childhood language education programs in French and Spanish (PreK-5). For more information, please follow [this link to the LSK website.](#)







## BRENDA CÁRDENAS

"A Hybrid Poetics: Betwixt and Between". This fall, Hispanic Studies was proud to host Latina poet Brenda Cárdenas for a poetry reading in the Ames School of Art. She writes in a blend of English and Spanish. She shared several poems that incorporated "the interconnectedness and juxtapositions of difference and similarity between seemingly disparate peoples, events, places, and experiences." You can find more information on the [Poetry Foundation website](#).





# OFRENDA: DÍA DE MUERTOS

For this year's day of the dead celebration, on November 1st, 2019, students from SALSA prepared delicious tamales and several students spoke about the significance of the day of the dead for their families.



## HOW TO START A BUSINESS

In November 2019, students in "Business Spanish and its Cultural Context," presented two workshops in Spanish on how to start a business in Illinois. Eryka Turner Figueroa ('22, left) and John Dicanio ('20, right) collaborated with the SBDC to share information on creating a business plan, choosing a business structure, and other important details.



# SPANISH CIVIL WAR

In the fall, Professor Ferradán's "Iberian Culture and Civilization" class studied the legacy of the Spanish Civil War. Their exhibit showcased various aspects of the Civil War, including women, art, the international brigade and the Civil War as a prelude to WWII.

# The Legacy of the Spanish Civil War

An exhibit presented by the students of  
SPAN 314 Iberian Culture & Civilization, Fall 2019  
November 12-November 25, 2019

Ames Library  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Please contact prof. Carmela Ferradán for more information [cferrada@iwu.edu](mailto:cferrada@iwu.edu)



# BARRIO FIESTA

This year's Barrio Fiesta focused on food, culture, and music of Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Thanks to the student organization SALSA for being excellent hosts and preparing this event.



# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Founded at the University of California, Berkeley in 1919, Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina and headquartered at the College of Charleston.

## FALL INDUCTEES

Samantha Berghoff ('20)

Jaeden Danko ('21)

Sabrina Fague ('20)

Megan Frederick ('21)

Hannah Foley ('21)

Amy Gourley ('21)

Toni Tortorella ('21)

Julianne Yoo ('21)



## SPRING INDUCTEES

Nursing Professor Dr. Carolyn Jarvis (right), Tamara Snevely ('20, left) and Josh Segatto (not pictured) were inducted into the Spanish Honor Society in the spring.



## STUDY ABROAD

Last fall, majors Ryan Gibbs ('21) and Jake Tencza ('21) spent the semester in Barcelona (top photo).

Margarita Patino was fully immersed in Peruvian culture while studying in Cuzco this spring semester (bottom photo). Unfortunately, like all students who were abroad, her semester abruptly

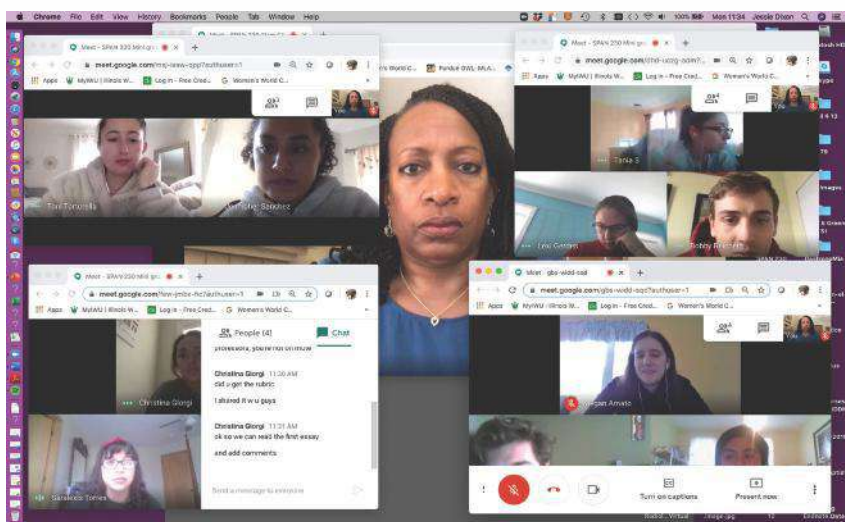
changed when students were called back to the US after the global outbreak of COVID-19. You can check out Margarita's [blog here](#).

In the spring, 24 students were studying in Barcelona in the IWU Spain Program. They also returned home in mid March due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

# CHA-CHA CHANGES

This past fall when our new department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures asked for your feedback as Illinois Wesleyan reviewed academic programs across campus, we had an overwhelming response from our alums. Thanks to all who took the time to respond. It was wonderful to read about your experiences here on campus and how languages continue to be part of your lives, whether professional or personal, whether you graduated last year or thirty years ago. And thanks so much for your thoughtful comments; we are all humbled to have been such a meaningful part of your IWU experience.

The abrupt transition this spring from classes as you remember them (exemplified in the photo, top right) before we all departed for spring break to virtual classes after spring break (exemplified in the photo, bottom right) presented challenges for faculty, staff and students alike. Faculty adapted and students, one class after another, rose to the occasion and put forth their best efforts. While it was not the end of the semester we had hoped for, especially for our amazing seniors, faculty witnessed



once again the strength of character, flexibility, capacity for critical thinking, and creativity in how students applied their knowledge all while transitioning to this new learning modality online. Frankly, we were not surprised by our students' responses as these qualities embody the Titan spirit. We hope all of our alums and your families and friends are staying safe and healthy during the pandemic. As always, we would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to [drop us a note here.](#)

¡Únete a la onda Titán!

Carolyn Nadeau



# HOMECOMING

## DAVE DARLING

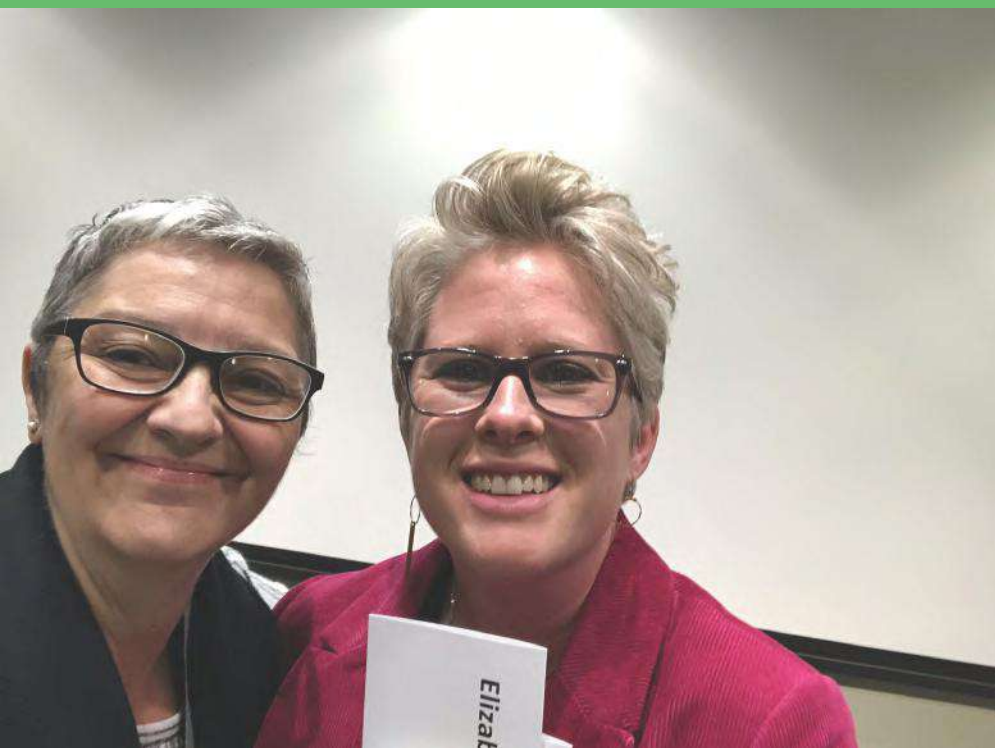
Dave Darling ('79) celebrated his 40th anniversary this past fall. While on campus he took the time to visit with several Spanish classes, like this Span 201 class, and reaffirmed for students the value of learning a second language both professionally and for one's own personal development. ¡Muchas gracias, Dave!



## WATKINS & ROTHAS

Alums Jerry Watkins ('09, second from left, Jerry's spouse and daughter Sienna also pictured) and Katie Rothas ('14, far right) celebrated their 10th and 5th year anniversaries at IWU's Homecoming this fall.





## SARAH WEINSTEIN

Sarah Weinstein ('96, right) spoke at this year's homecoming as a producer and director of documentaries and other videos. She is pictured here with Profe. Ferradáns.

## GRAINNE KELLY & SAM BIDLACK

Grainne Kelly ('19) is pursuing a Masters in Secondary Education at Lewis University.

In September alums Grainne Kelly (second left) and Sam Bidlack ('19, third left) came back to campus for a lacrosse game. They are seen here with teammate Mariah Smith ('19) and Profe. Ferradáns.





# KAITLYN O'BRIEN

Kaitlyn O'Brien ('19) is spending the year in Madrid as a cultural ambassador in the Language and Culture Assistants program in Spain. She's been keeping us updated on her year there through [her blog](#). Kaitlyn, we hope to see you at next year's homecoming!



# LUIS LEAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Avalon Bruno ('22) and Colleen Palczynski ('22) were awarded Luis Leal Scholarships that will support their respective study abroad experiences next year. As of this newsletter both will be studying in Chile with the SIT "Social Justice and Human Rights" program. Both will be based in Valparaíso and also have an extended period in the capital city of Santiago, all the while learning about how Chileans today are working for a more equitable and inclusive nation. ¡Felicidades a las dos!

The Hispanic Studies program of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Illinois Wesleyan University is able to offer competitive scholarships to

qualified students who carry out Hispanic Studies research off-campus in the U.S. or abroad while enrolled in an IWU-affiliated program. If you are interested in donating to this scholarship fund or just want to learn more, you can find more information [here](#).

